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THE DIRECTOR OF  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

87

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National Intelligence Council

28 January 1987

NOTE FOR: ADCI  
FROM: NIO/S&T  
SUBJECT: Superconducting Supercollider

Bob,

I hope that the attached notes on  
the Superconducting Supercollider will  
help you.



Julian C. Nall

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Att

DCI/NIC/NIO/S&T,  28 Jan 87

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Distribution:

- Orig - Addressee
- 1 - Executive Registry
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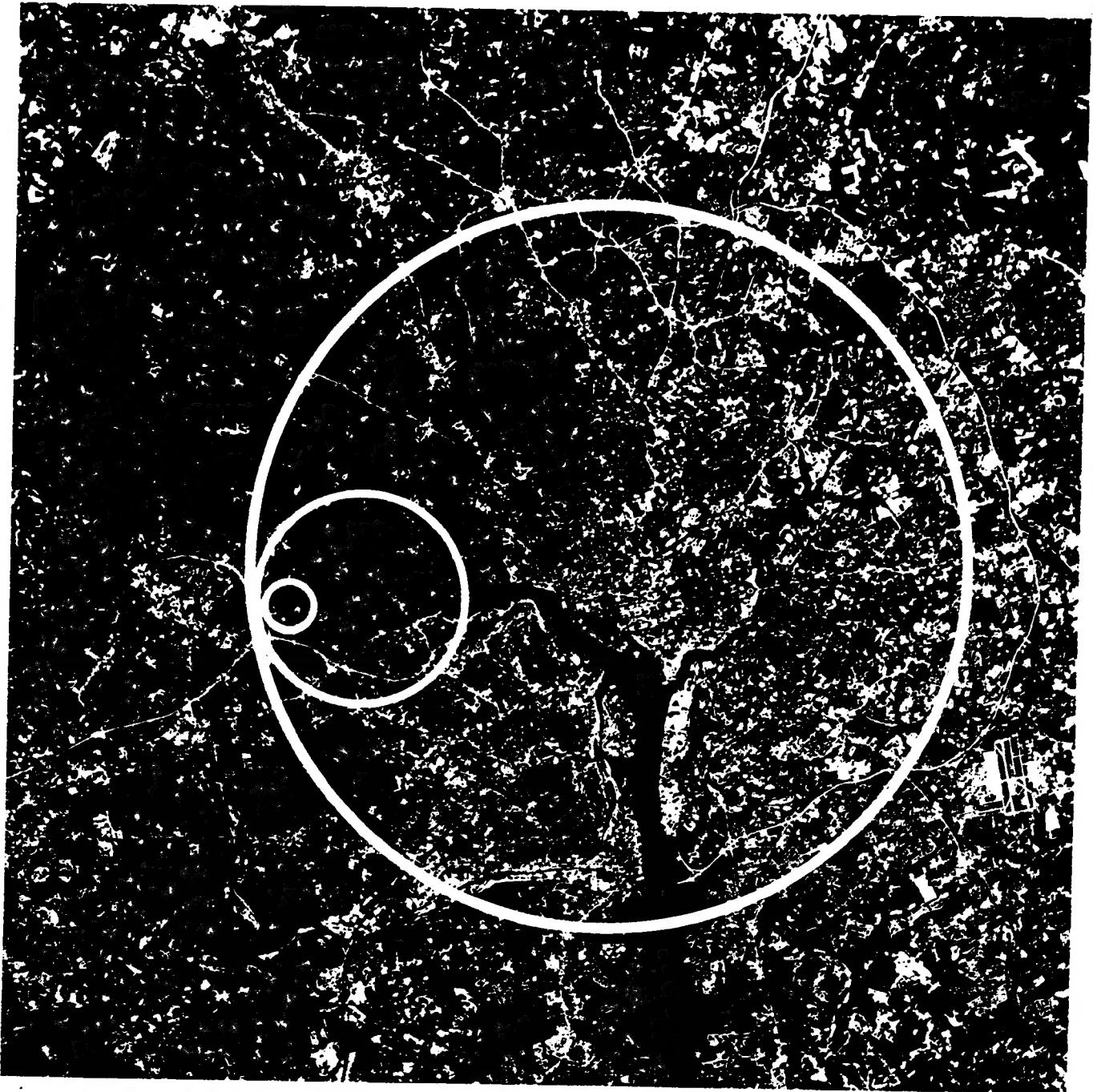


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# The SSC: A machine for the nineties



The scale of the Superconducting Super Collider (if 5-T magnets are used) is shown in comparison with the Tevatron at Fermilab (the smallest ring) and LEP at CERN (the somewhat larger ring). All three rings are superimposed to scale on the environs of Washington, DC. Note that the SSC is about the size of the Washington Beltway. This NASA photograph was made in November 1982 from an orbiting Landsat.

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
ROUTING SLIP

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15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	D/OSWR		X 7		
18	NIO/S&T		X 8		
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Remarks

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*HY* Executive Secretary  
17 NOV 86  
Date

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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15 November 1986

Mr. Roger B. Smith  
Chairman  
General Motors Corporation  
General Motors Building  
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Dear Roger,

Thanks very much for your letter of November 4 about the importance of our retaining our leadership in science. I couldn't agree with you more. We do a great deal of work in monitoring the position and progress of the Soviet Union, the advanced industrial countries and the Third World in scientific and technological prowess, as well as its economic and military impact.

I will support the construction of the Superconducting Super Collider.

With best regards,

Yours,



William J. Casey



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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

**ROUTING SLIP**

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SUSPENSE 21 Nov 86  
Date

Remarks

To # 5: Please have response prepared for DCI signature.

Executive Secretary

10 Nov 86

Date

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GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION  
GENERAL MOTORS BUILDING  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

ROGER B. SMITH  
CHAIRMAN

November 4, 1986

Mr. William J. Casey  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

I am writing to you in connection with a matter which can affect both our long-range national security and our long-range competitive productivity in a profound way. It relates to the question of whether the United States aims to have a preeminent position in all areas of forefront science. I believe that we are capable of maintaining such a position, that it is consistent with our economic condition to do so, and that we should do so. This letter is motivated by the fact that we are in danger of losing our forefront position in some of these areas, and particularly by the fact that an important decision is imminent for one of them: high energy elementary particle physics.

You may find it strange that I should be concerned about such an issue. However, the fact of the matter is that solutions to the problems that General Motors faces, and our ability to produce better competitive products with the most competitive manufacturing processes, depend in a major way upon continued technological progress. Continuous improvements in technology depend upon an intimate relationship with the increases in fundamental knowledge that arise from the practice of bold science on both the small and large scales. What is true of our productivity is also true, for the same reasons, of our national security.

I am familiar with these issues both from our own work to improve our GM technology, and because, as a member of the Board of the California Institute of Technology I am frequently exposed to the progress and problems of science through the work of that institution.

REG

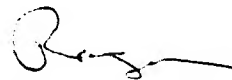
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We now have an opportunity to leapfrog the competition (Western Europe) in high energy physics. Secretary of Energy John Harrington will shortly be recommending to President Reagan the construction of the Superconducting Super Collider. This great particle accelerator will operate at an energy of twenty trillion electron volts, twenty times more powerful than any existing machine. The important fundamental physics results expected from experiments with the machine are unlikely to affect our technology directly for a number of years. Nevertheless, the history of science tells us that eventually they will do so. History also tells us that the technological experience gained in the building of the machine, and the experimental equipment that is used with it, will all affect our technology profoundly and quite rapidly. An additional benefit will be the important contributions of the project to the scientific and technological education of the scientists, engineers and students who build and work with the machine.

I urge you, in conversations with the President, to support this project as one of the bold scientific initiatives needed to keep us ahead in knowledge and technology. It is a right action, at the right time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Smith', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Roger B. Smith  
Chairman